

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 119233
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DRAFTED BY EUR;SOV;MLEVITSKY:REH
APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE
L - JWILLIS
JUSTICE - MR. PROPPER (PH
ARA/AND - RDRISCOLL (SUBSTANCE)
-----241902Z 022872 /41
R 241416Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CGEN, CI

SUBJECT: INVESTIGATION OF LETELIER MURDER

1. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAS ASKED DEPARTMENT TO ASSIST
IN ITS INVESTIGATION OF MURDER OF ORLANDO LETELIER IN
SEPTEMBER 1976. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MEMORANDUM FROM
JUSTICE REGARDING THIS REQUEST.

2. "IN NOVEMBER 1974 GRENADA TELEVISION, A LONDON BASED
PRODUCTION COMPANY, PRODUCED AN HOUR-LONG TELEVISION DOCU-
MENTARY ENTITLED 'THE LONG HAND OF DINA.' THIS TELEVISION
SHOW WAS SHOWN IN THE UNITED STATES IN THE EARLY PART OF
1977. ONE OF THE REASONS FOR SHOWING THIS DOCUMENTARY
IN THE UNITED STATES WAS THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN INTERVIEWS
OF VARIOUS PERSONS WHO HAD KNOWLEDGE OF ORLANDO LETELIER,
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THE FORMER AMBASSADOR THE US FROM CHILE, WHO WAS MURDERED
IN WASHINGTON, D.C., ON SEPTEMBER 21, 1976.

3. "AMONG THOSE INTERVIEWED WAS MR. HERMAN MOLINA-
RODRIGUEZ, WHO WAS FORMERLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE CHILEAN
MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS. MR. MOLINA STATED IN THE
TELEVISED INTERVIEW THAT HE HAD BEEN PRESENT AT THE UNITED

NATIONS WITH LETELIER, AT WHICH TIME LETELIER WAS CONFRONT-
ED WITH A VERBAL THREAT MADE BY ONE OF THE PERSONS ATTACHED

TO THE CHILEAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS. THE SUB-
STANCE OF THE THREATS WAS THAT LETELIER WAS A TRAITOR
AND WAS SUBJECT TO REPRISAL.

3. "THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE IN WASHINGTON,
D.C., AND THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION HAVE BEEN
INVESTIGATING THIS CASE SINCE THE CRIME WAS COMMITTED. IT
IS OUR DESIRE THAT MR. MOLINA, WHO NOW RESIDES IN MOSCOW,
BE INTERVIEWED BY SOMEONE IN OUR EMBASSY IN MOSCOW TO
DETERMINE THE FOLLOWING POINTS: 1) MOLINA'S RECOLLECTION
OF THE EXACT WORDING OF THE THREAT TO LETELIER AND THE
CONTEXT IN WHICH IT WAS MADE; 2) THE IDENTITIES OF ALL OF
THOSE PRESENT AT THE TIME THE THREAT WAS MADE, INCLUDING
THE PERSON WHO MADE THE THREAT; 3) THE SPECIFIC LOCATION
AT THE UNITED NATIONS WHERE THE THREAT WAS MADE; AND 4)
THE IDENTITY OF THE INTERVIEWER FROM GRENADA TELEVISION
WHO INTERVIEWED MOLINA.

4. "THE PERTINENT INFORMATION ON MR. MOLINA IS AS FOLLOWS:
HE IS A CHILEAN NATIONAL WHO WAS BORN IN SANTIAGO, CHILE,
ON DECEMBER 13, 1935. HIS PERMANENT RESIDENCE IS VIA
QUIRINO, MAIORANA, ROME, ITALY. HE WENT TO MOSCOW IN
FEBRUARY 1977 AND IS SCHEDULED TO REMAIN UNTIL MAY 1978.

5. "WE WOULD REQUEST THAT YOU ASK THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES
FOR ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING MR. MOLINA AND IN REQUESTING
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THAT HE APPEAR FOR QUESTIONING."

6. EMBASSY IS INSTRUCTED TO REQUEST MFA ASSISTANCE IN
ARRANGING INTERVIEW WITH MOLINA-RODRIGUEZ. IN MAKING
REQUEST EMBASSY MAY INFORM MFA OF BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE
OF INTERVIEW AND STATE THAT WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION
IF A SOVIET OFFICIAL IS PRESENT DURING INTERVIEW. IF
ASKED, EMBASSY SHOULD STATE THAT IT WOULD NOT BE ACCEPT-
ABLE FOR PURPOSES OF INVESTIGATION TO RECEIVE WRITTEN
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT PERSONAL INTERVIEW OF
MOLINA-RODRIGUEZ BY EMBASSY OFFICIAL. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 24-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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